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86 MOSCOW 17620

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- -- THE REGIME RECENTLY HAS ACHIEVED
- MILITARY SUCCESSES IN THE WAR
- WITH THE MUJAHIDEEN. PROGRESS IN
- CLOSING THE BORDERS WITH IRAN AND
- PAKISTAN AND IN ADDITION THE DRA
- MILITARY HAS BECOME A "MORE EFFECTIVE
- FIGHTING FORCE":
- -- THE REGIME HAS SUCCEEDED IN
- BROADENING ITS SOCIAL BASE AND IN
- ATTRACTING A BROAD RANGE OF POLITICAL
- FORCES, INCLUDING ONES PREVIOUSLY
- HOSTILE, TO SUPPORT THE REGIME.

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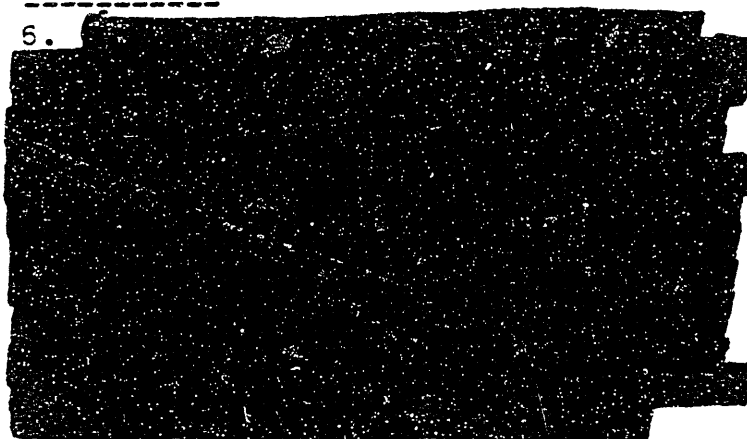
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4. THE ARTICLE PORTRAYS THE REGIME'S OPPONENTS (I.E., U.S., PAKISTAN, MUJAHIDEEN, ETC.) AS "DESPERATELY" TRYING TO HALT THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION THROUGH INTERFERENCE IN AFGHANISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE ARTICLE ADDS THAT MOSCOW HOPES THAT ITS WITHDRAWAL WILL LEAD ITS OPPONENTS TO DRAW THE RIGHT CONCLUSIONS AND CURTAIL THEIR INTERFERENCE AND WILL ALSO CREATE A GOOD POLITICAL CLIMATE FOR THE U.N. INDIRECT TALKS.

5. THE ARTICLE WARNS AGAINST BELIEVING THAT THE REGIME IN KABUL CAN BE CHANGED AND REITERATES THE SOVIET COMMITMENT TO ASSIST THE DRA.

MFA REMARKS

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1628

INFO MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 17620

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL UR AF

SUBJECT: AUTHORITATIVE PRAVDA ARTICLE

COMMENT

7. AS THE ARTICLE [REDACTED] MADE
CLEAR, MOSCOW STILL REFUSES TO COMPROMISE
ON OR EVEN DISCUSS THE KEY ISSUES IN
AN AFGHANISTAN SETTLEMENT: THE COMPLETE
WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET FORCES, AFGHANISTAN'S
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POST-WITHDRAWAL POLITICAL STRUCTURE,
MOSCOW'S POST-WITHDRAWAL MILITARY RE-
LATIONSHIP WITH AFGHANISTAN, AND AFGHANISTAN'S
FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION POST-WITHDRAWAL.
IN PLAYING UP THE "WITHDRAWAL," THE SOVIETS
PRESUMABLY ARE HOPING TO ENTICE THE UNWARY
INTO A FICTIONAL SETTLEMENT.
8. FYI: THE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WHO
WILL BE TRAVELLING TO AFGHANISTAN FOR THE

"WITHDRAWAL" APPEAR UNPERSUADED BY THE
SOVIET LINE. IN AN OCTOBER 10 EMBASSY
BRIEFING FOR THE JOURNALISTS ON THE
WITHDRAWAL, ONE COMPARED IT TO THE ANNUAL
PROPAGANDA "WITHDRAWALS" FROM KAMPUCHEA.

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9. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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